My Victoria

Imperforate Line Engraved Stamps of Great Britain from the Plate Position 'CG'

The Penny Black of Great Britain, issued for sale on May 1, 1840 and valid for use on May 6, 1840, is widely recognized to be the first postage stamp issued to indicate prepayment of postage.

The Penny Black, the Two Pence Blue, and the Penny Red which followed, were designed by Charles Heath and printed by the firm of Perkins, Bacon & Petch Ltd. The stamp is of a simple design – a portrait of the reigning Queen, taken from a medal engraved by William Wyon, engine turned scrollwork for the background at the left and right, star-like ornaments in the upper corners; the word "Postage" at the top, and the denomination at the bottom. In addition, each position on the plate of 240 was indicated with letters in the lower corners which identified the row and column. The twenty rows were labeled "A" at the top to "T" at the bottom in the lower left corner of each stamp. The twelve columns were likewise labeled "A" through "L" at the lower right. Slight variations in the positions of the letters and the presence of other plate marks allows each stamp to be matched to its original plate.

Unbeknownst to Sir Rowland Hill and the other early champions of the Penny, one stamp from each plate, only 0.42% of the issued stamps, would bear the initials of this collector, making this specific stamp, *My Victoria.* This exhibit shows examples of adhesives from this plate position. Plated singles and multiples, paper and printing varieties, as well as cancellations and usages will be shown. An adhesive from position CG is represented in every item exhibited.

Plan of the Exhibit

Frame 1	Frame 2	Frame 3	Frame 4	Frame 5
1840	**1841 - 1848**	**1848 - 1853**	**Cancellations**	**Usages**
"Black" plates: plates 1-10	"Red" plates: plates 11-81	"Red" plates: plates 82-175	Maltese Cross Cancellations	Rates and Usages
"Blue" plates: plates 1-2	"Blue" plate: plate 3	"Blue" plate 4	Numeral Cancellations	Auxiliary Markings
		Printing Varieties		Late Usages

The date each plate went to press, the quantity printed, and key plating characteristics are noted for each plate.

Unusual or noteworthy items have been mounted with red borders.

Note to judges: An "in progress" version of this exhibit can be viewed online at:
www.geocities.com/chipgliedman/myvictoria/myvictoria.html